

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: S. EGUCHI, et al.
Serial No.: 10/588,959
Filed: AUGUST 10, 2006
For: MANUFACTURING METHOD OF SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE
Art Unit: 2891
Examiner: Julia Slutsker
Conf. No.: 4026

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 27, 2008

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 28, 2008, Applicants respectfully elect the Group I claims (claims 9-12), and also respectfully elect Specie 1. This election is made without traverse.

As indicated by the Examiner, claims 9-12 are the Group I claims, with claims 1, 3-8 and 17-20 being linking claims which will be examined with the elected invention. It is noted that the Examiner has not listed claim 2 either as being within one of Groups I or II, or being a linking claim. It is respectfully submitted that claim 2 should fall within the linking claims, to be examined with the elected invention.

Moreover, in connection with the election-of-species requirement set forth in Item 4 on pages 5-7 of the Office Action mailed May 28, 2008, wherein Applicants have elected Specie 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5 and 7-20 read on elected Specie 1.

Furthermore, in view of election of the Group I and Specie 1 claims, and noting the claims indicated by the Examiner to be linking claims, and adding claim 2

June 27, 2008

to the linking claims, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5, 7-12 and 17-20 are to be considered on the merits in the above-identified application.

Accordingly, examination of claims 1-5, 7-12 and 17-20, on the merits, in due course, is respectfully requested.

Applicants request any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper be charged to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (case 1374.46346X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By /William I. Solomon/

William I. Solomon

Registration No. 28,565

WIS/kmh
1300 N. 17th St., Ste. 1800
Arlington, VA 22209
Tel: 703-312-6600 / Fax: 703-312-6666